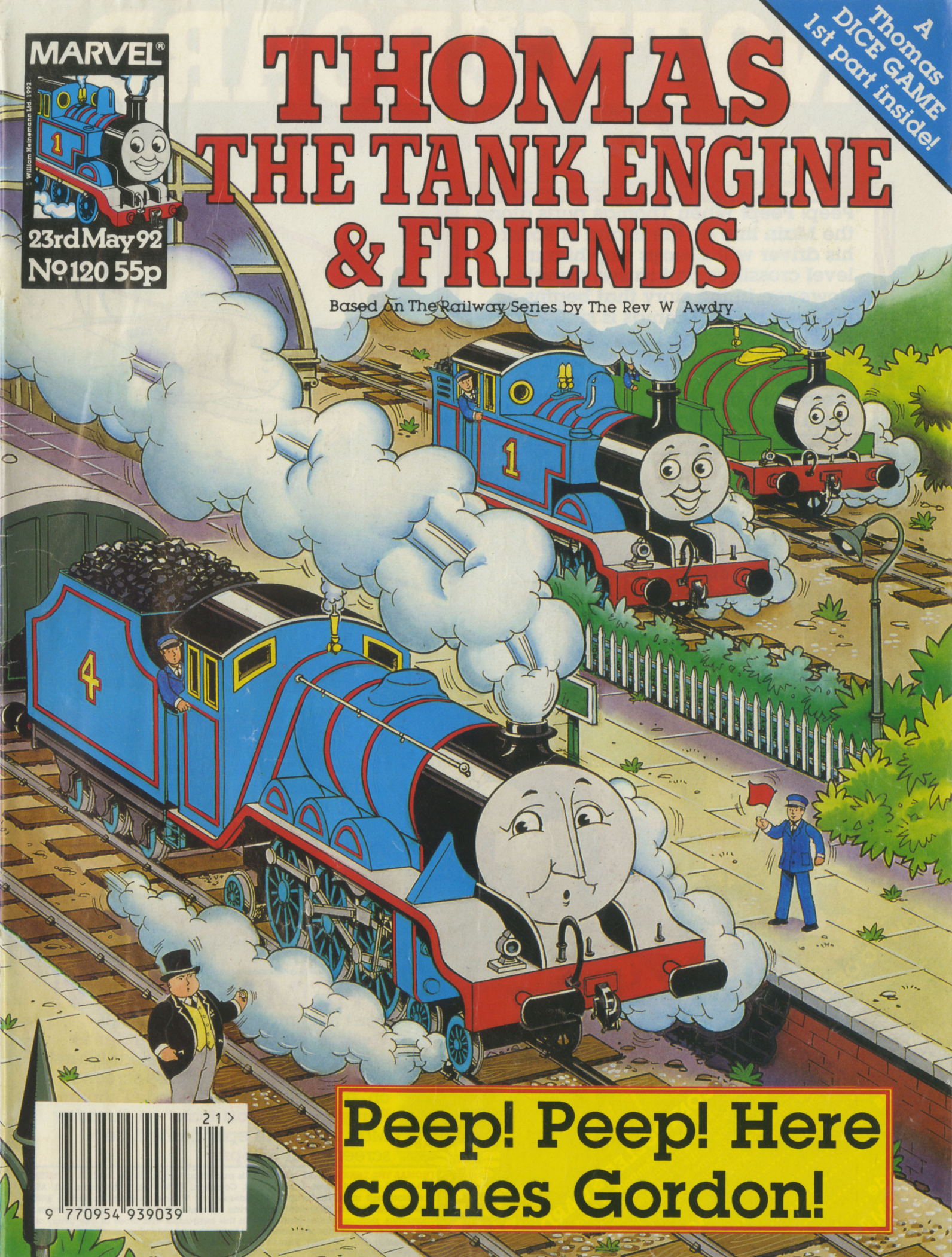
MARVEL®
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23rd May 92
№120 55p
A Thomas DICE GAME 1st part inside!
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry
Peep! Peep! Here comes Gordon!
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# NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! When Thomas puffs along the Main line on the Island of Sodor, his driver will always stop him at level crossings and raised signals. However, in the story that begins on the next page, Thomas is stopped on the line for a very different reason indeed! Don't miss our second story either when the Fat Controller discovers how to make his passengers more comfortable! Peep! Peep!




## SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** of this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and be the lucky winner of a fantastic selection of toys from *ERTL (UK)Ltd*, including a **3-piece diecast playset** *(see below)*, a **Thomas Remote control** engine and a **Thomas Standard diecast model.**

## THOMAS ON TV!

Don't miss more new episodes of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** on the *ITV Network* in the near future! **"No joke for James"** will be screened on *Tuesday May 12th*, and **"Thomas, Percy and the Post train"** on *Tuesday May 19th*. Both episodes will be screened at **3.55pm!**

## HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....

**Postcode** ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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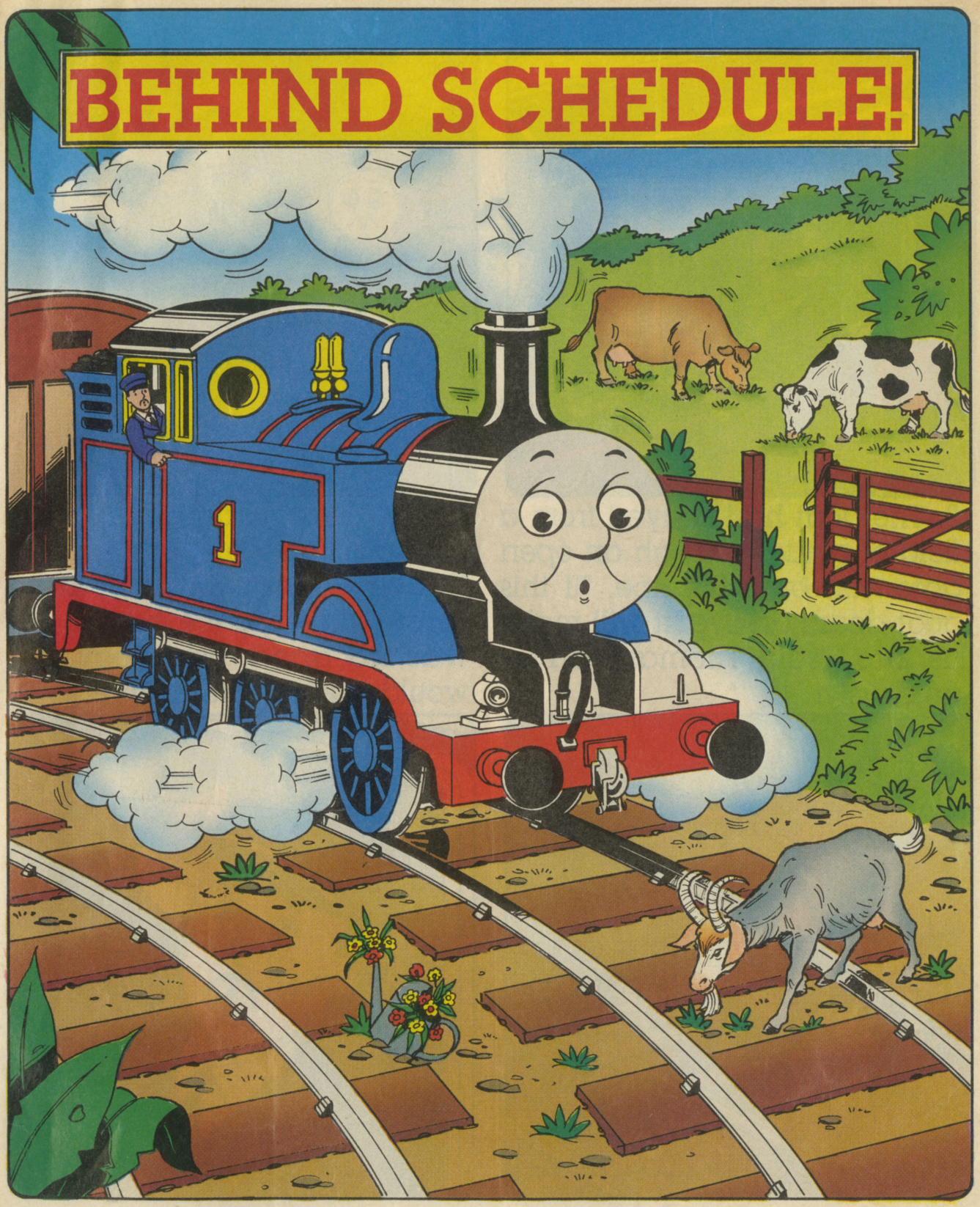
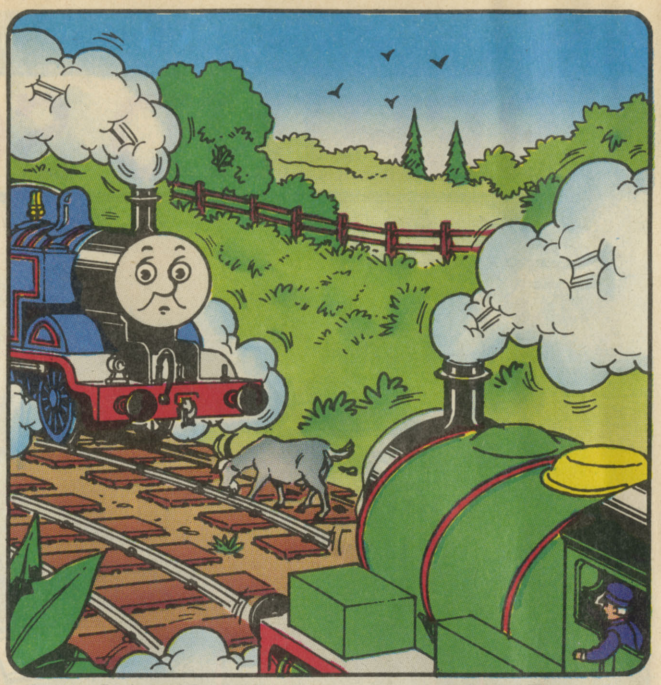
# BEHIND SCHEDULE!



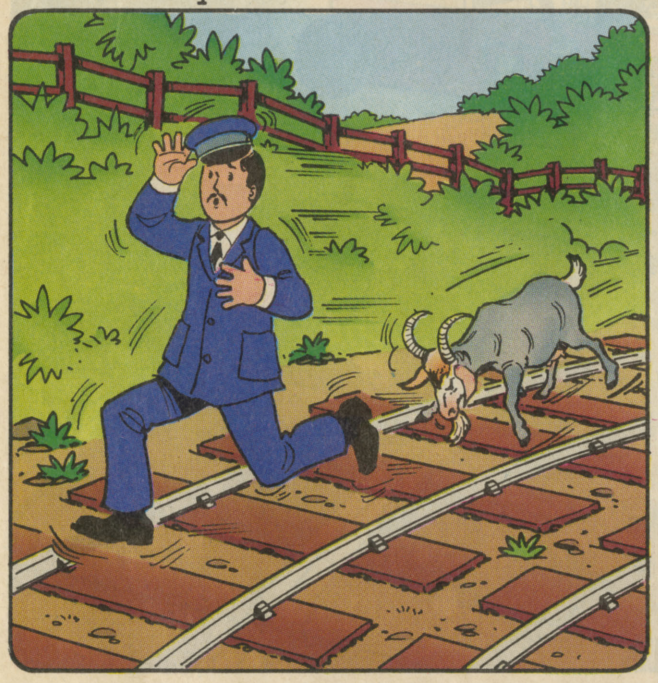

1. It was a warm, sunny afternoon as Thomas pulled a goods train along the main line. As Thomas steamed around a bend in the track, he had quite a shock.

2. "Stop!" cried Thomas, anxiously. His driver pulled the brake lever and Thomas gradually stopped. On the line, just before Thomas, there was a goat chewing tufts of grass!

3. The goat had strayed from a field of cattle, through an open gate and onto the line. "If this goat doesn't move, it will make us late," said Thomas's driver anxiously!



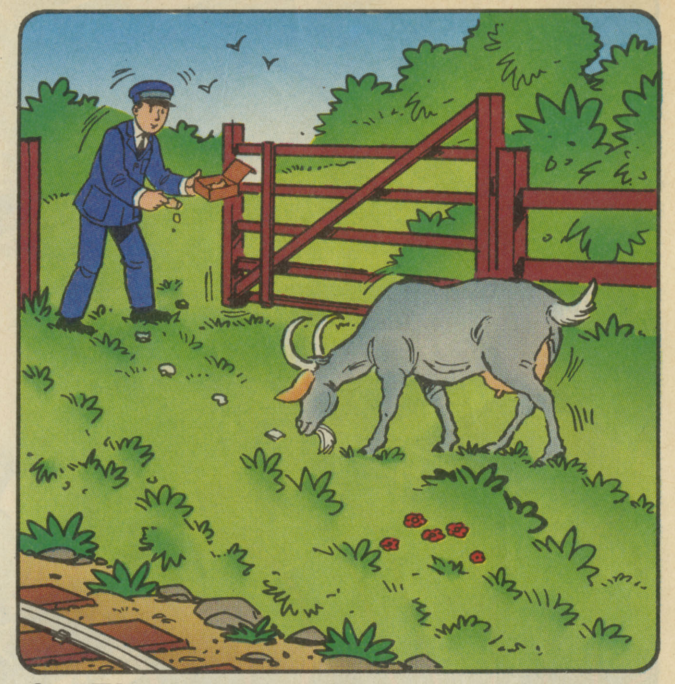
4. At that moment, Percy appeared on the opposite track. "Move along! Shoo!" called Percy's driver to the goat. But it was no good, the goat just wouldn't move off the line.



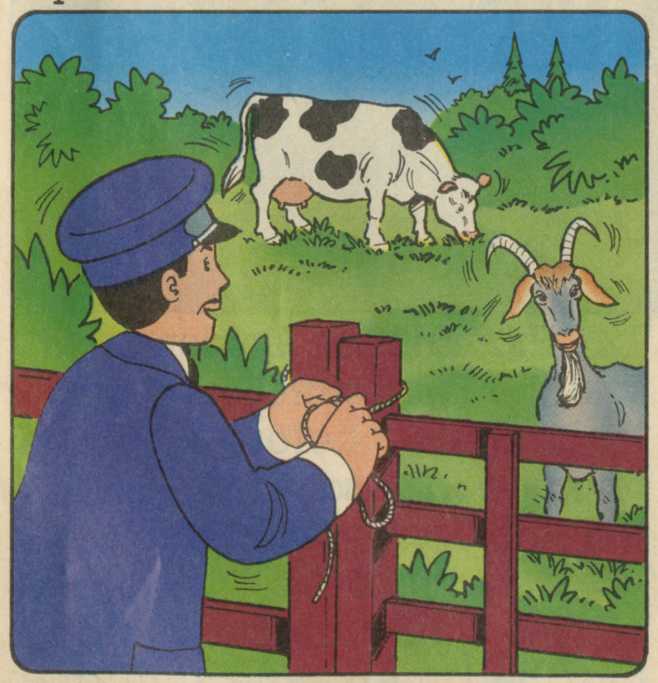
5. Thomas's driver climbed down on to the track. "I'll have to move that goat myself," he said. But as he approached, the goat turned and chased him back to his cab!

6. "Are you alright?" called Percy's driver. "Yes!" replied Thomas's driver. "That wasn't such a good idea after all!" "No" said Percy's driver. "We will have to think of another idea"!

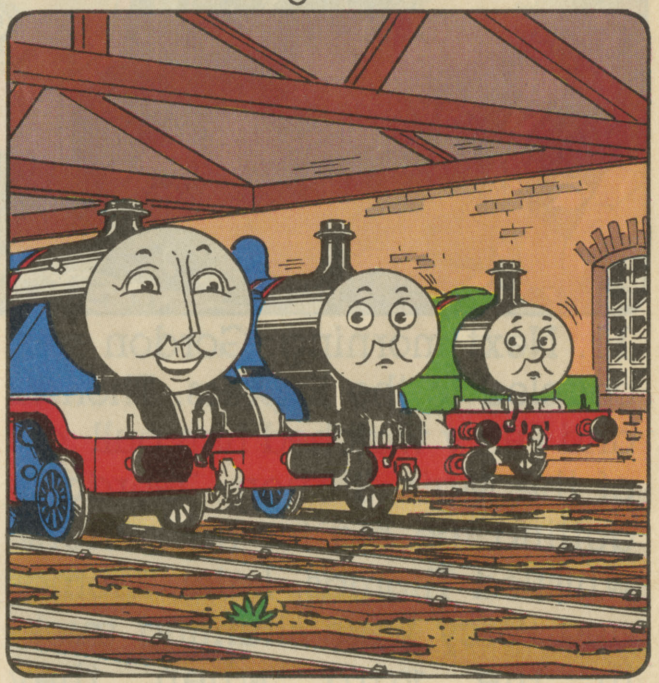
7. Thomas's driver thought for a moment and then reached for his lunchbox. "What are we going to do?" asked Thomas. "I have a plan!" replied his driver.



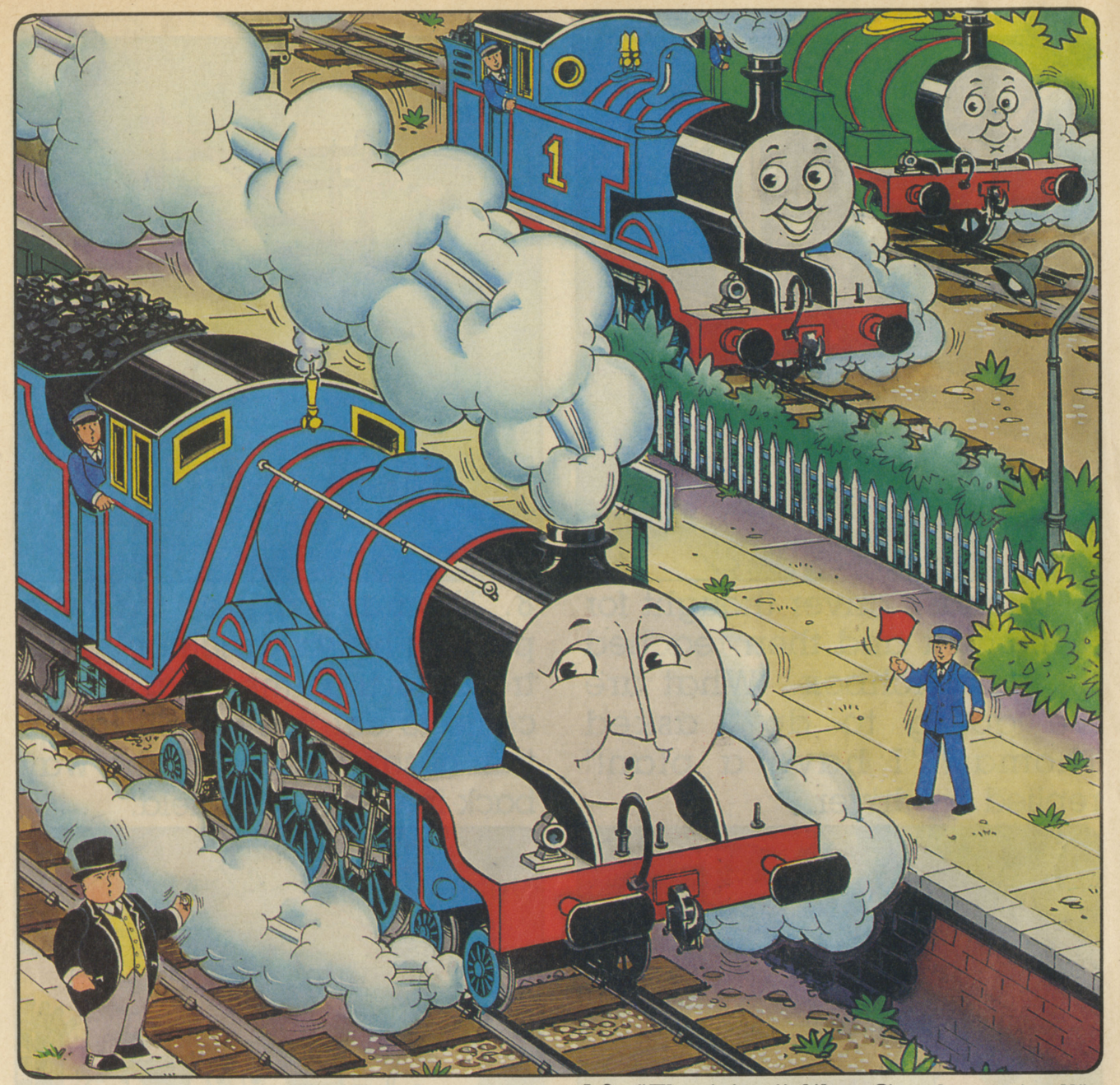
8. Thomas's driver threw a piece of his sandwich on to the track so that the goat would come to eat it. He then laid a trail of sandwiches all the way back into the goat's field.



9.The goat followed the food trail into its field and Thomas's driver tied the gate shut. Now, Thomas and Percy could continue on their journey. But they had to make up time!



10. That night in the engine shed, Thomas and Percy told their story to the other engines. "Pah! A little goat wouldn't delay a splendid engine like me!" boasted Gordon, proudly.




11. Next morning, Gordon was coupled to the Express. Thomas and Percy watched him pull out of the Main Station. "Gordon's getting too big for his buffers!" whistled Thomas. Later Thomas and Percy were shunting trucks in the yard when they overheard the stationmaster talking to the Fat Controller. "Gordon is late back with the Express," said the stationmaster.

12. "That isn't like Gordon at all", said the Fat Controller. It was a long time before Gordon returned. "I'm sorry, sir," he told the Fat Controller. Some cows wandered onto the line. A goat chewed through some string that tied their gate shut and they escaped onto the track!" Thomas and Percy now knew that big engines could get held up, too!

THE END

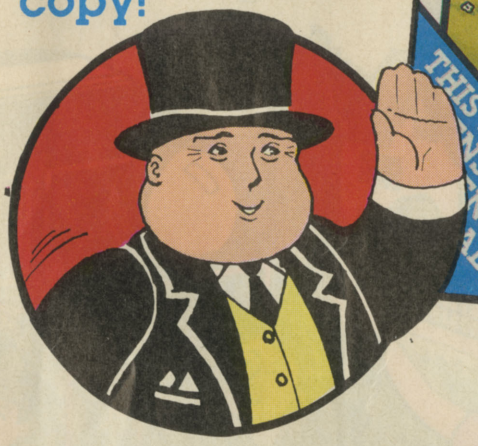


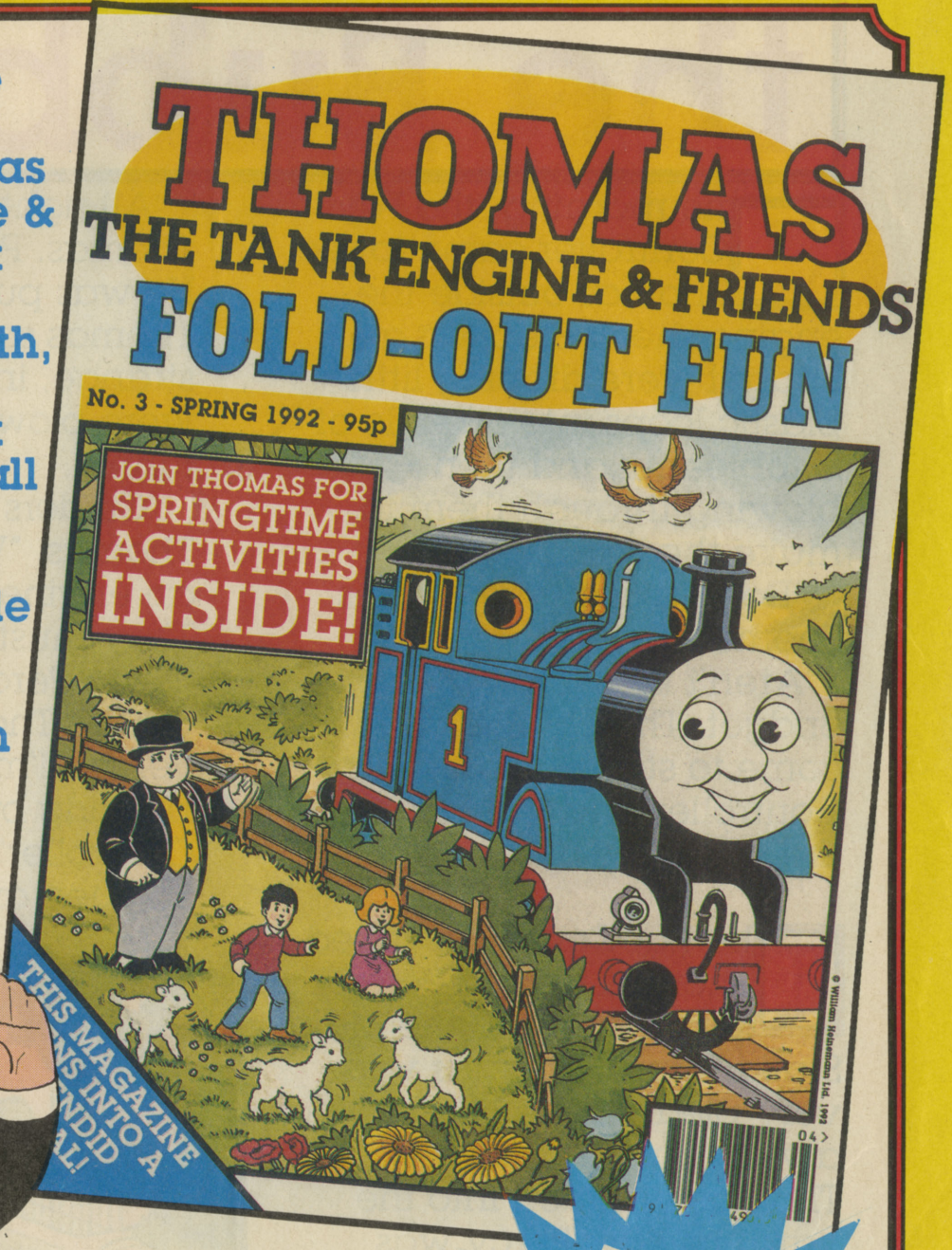
**In our next issue: Diesel pulls hard!**

# JUMP ABOARD

## THOMAS'S UNIQUE MAGAZINE!

Don't miss the 3rd exciting edition of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Fold-out Fun magazine! Where this month, you can join Thomas, the Fat Controller and all their friends on the Island of Sodor for a whole host of stories, puzzles and activities, which carry the theme of springtime! Don't miss your copy!






This charming magazine also opens into a splendid large mural for you to hang on your bedroom wall!

NOW ONLY 95p

# Thomas and the Bubbles!

One morning, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas outside the engine shed? Stephen and Bridget were dipping little plastic loops into a bottle of bubble-mix and then blowing through them to make the bubbles.

"Do you like our bubbles, Thomas!" called Stephen.

"Aren't they pretty?" said Bridget. The children had come to stay with the Fat Controller and lady Hatt for the weekend.

The Fat Controller asked Thomas to help Percy shunt trucks in the Main Station yard. Thomas was very pleased. He liked being a very busy engine. As Thomas steamed into the yard, he saw Percy was coupled to a long line of trucks.

"Hello, Percy!" called Thomas.

"Hurry up, Thomas!" puffed Percy. "There are lots more trucks to move! We need to work very quickly!"

"All right! All right!" said Thomas. Percy looked tired. He was puffing hard. Then Thomas saw something very strange, indeed. Bubbles were blowing out of Percy's funnel.

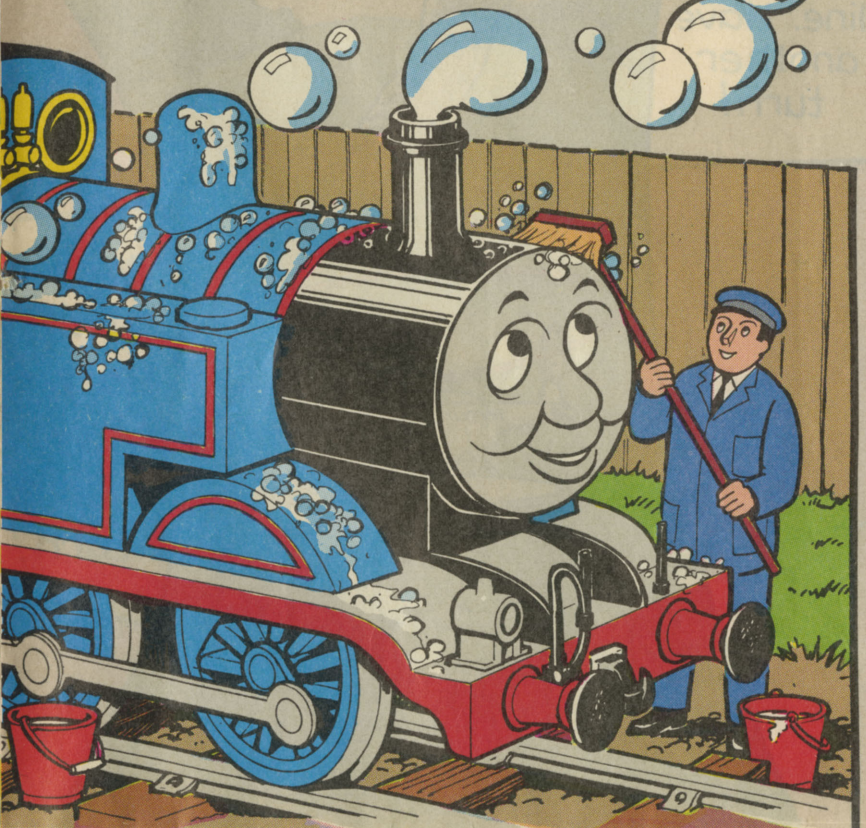
"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. "Whoever heard of an engine blowing bubbles? They must be coming from inside Percy's boiler!"

"Silly Thomas!" steamed Percy. "I'm not the one who is blowing bubbles! It's the Fat Controller's grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, who

are blowing bubbles. Percy backed up and Thomas saw Stephen and Bridget, appearing behind Percy.

The bubbles floated through the air. Some landed on Thomas and burst.

"Blowing bubbles looks good fun!" he said. The children took it in turns to see who could blow the biggest bubble. Meanwhile, Thomas set to work shunting coal trucks. They were dusty and dirty. Soon Thomas's paintwork was covered in soot. At last, Thomas and Percy had moved all the trucks to the siding. Thomas rolled into a siding to be cleaned. The railway staff washed him with long brushes and big buckets of warm soapy water.



Stephen and Bridget came to watch Thomas being cleaned. Thomas was covered in soapy water from his buffers to his coal bunker. A workman also spilled lots of soapy water down Thomas's funnel, by mistake.

bubbles

"Grooh! Be careful!" spluttered Thomas. The soapy water tickled as it ran down the inside of his funnel. It made Thomas feel peculiar.

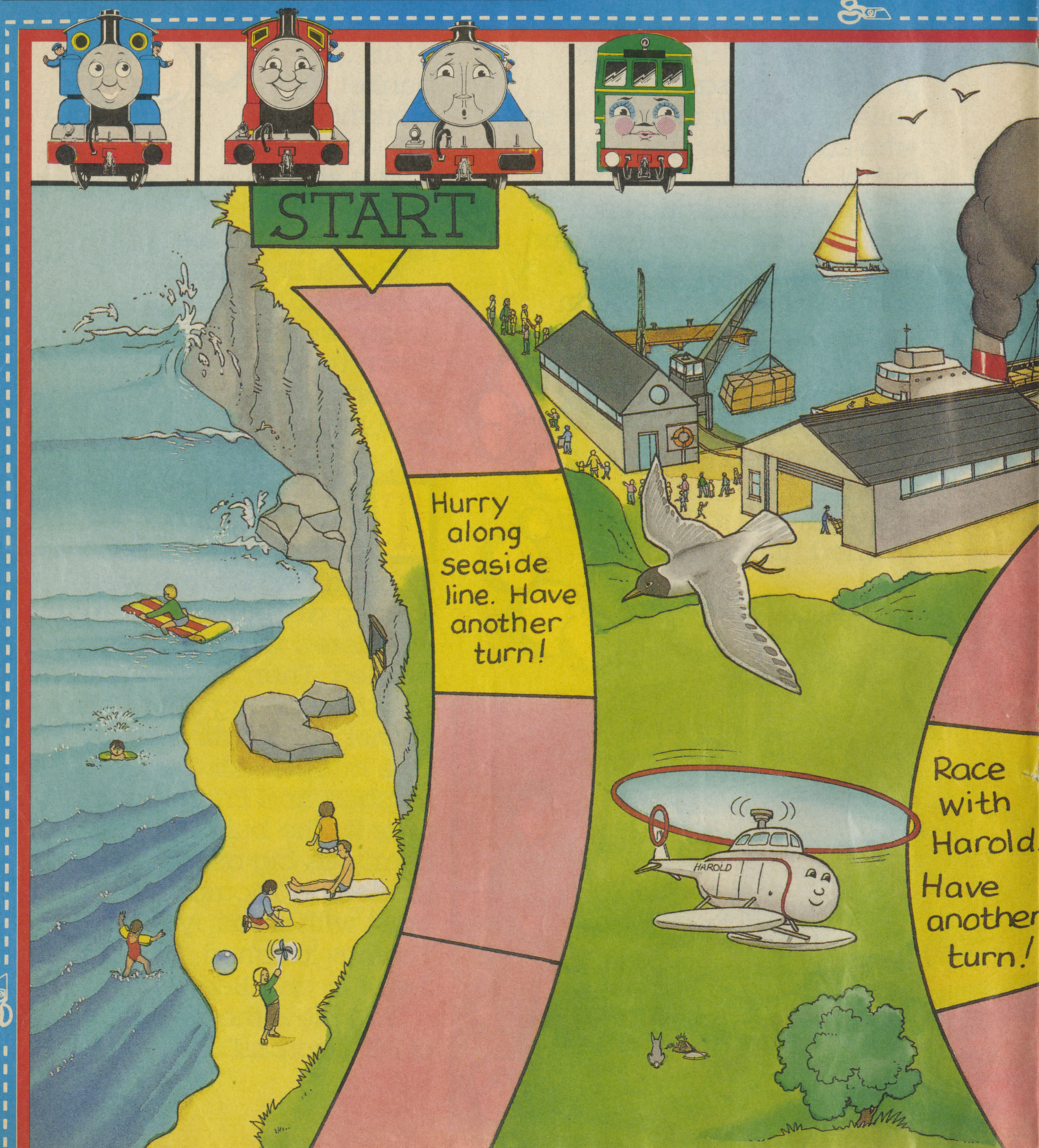
Thomas tried to blow the soapy water out. He puffed and puffed. Stephen and Bridget were looking at Thomas. Thomas wondered why. He was puzzled. Then he saw soap bubbles coming out of his funnel and floating away. One bubble was huge. Stephen and Bridget chased after it. The bubble was nearly as big as they were. It landed on Thomas's cab and burst with a soapy POP! Thomas laughed. So did Stephen and Bridget.

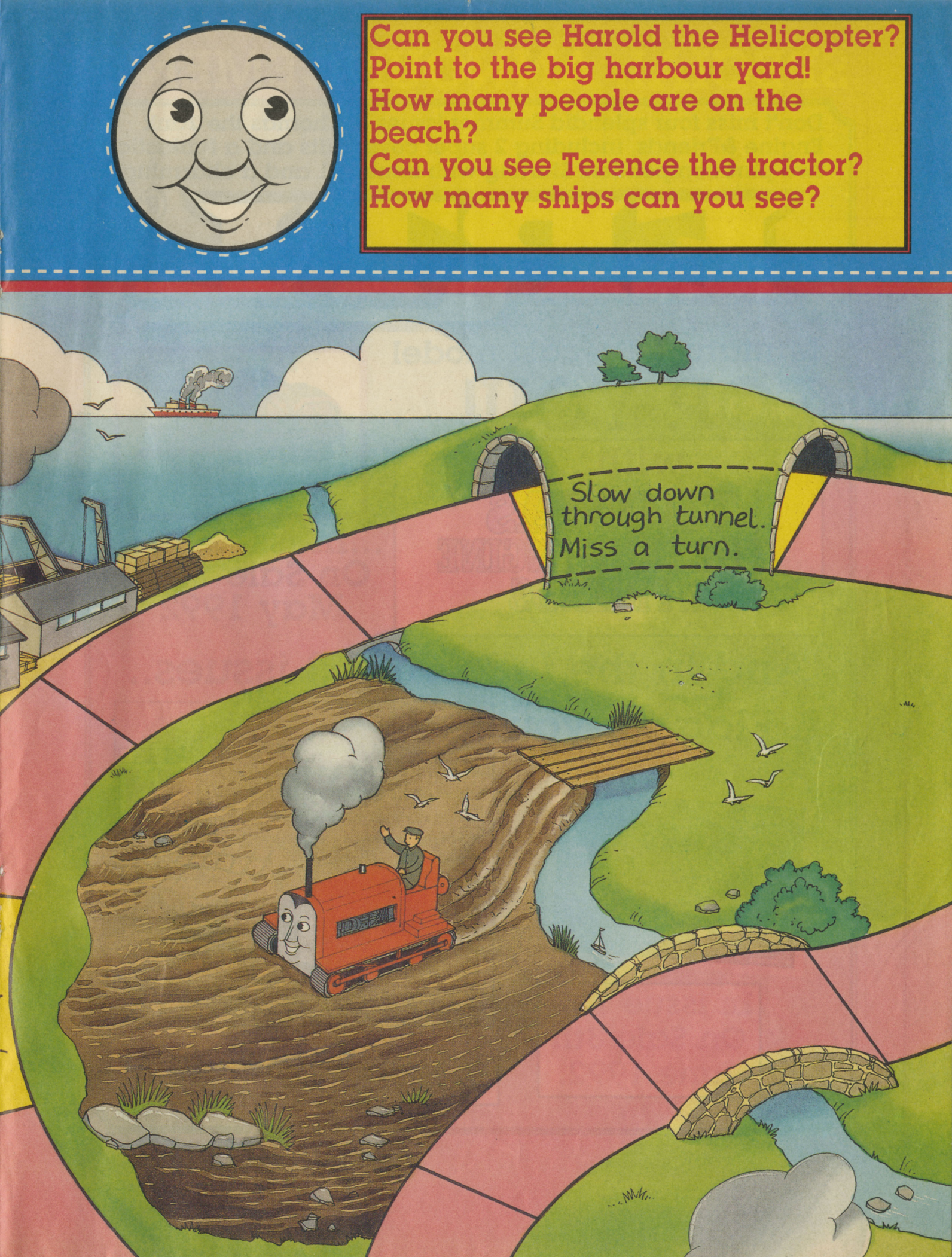
"You blew the biggest bubble of all, Thomas!" they giggled.

THE END!

# THOMAS'S Game Part 1

This is the first part of **Thomas's dice game**. There are four parts altogether-so don't miss the next **three** issues of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**! Stick this double page on to thin card, cut the blue border off along the dotted lines, cut out your first counter-and wait for our next issue!



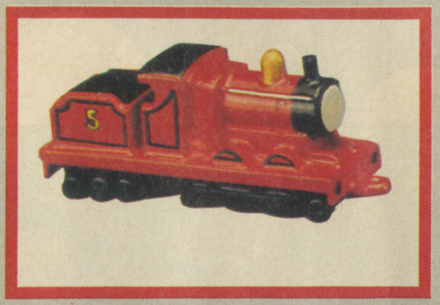

Can you see Harold the Helicopter?
Point to the big harbour yard!
How many people are on the beach?
Can you see Terence the tractor?
How many ships can you see?
Slow down through tunnel. Miss a turn.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Don't miss four splendid Summer issues of Thomas the Tank Engine &Friends, including 2 super cover gifts and a fantastic two part competition! Starting with issue 121 and a charming

# ERTL®

## Miniature Diecast model FOR YOU!



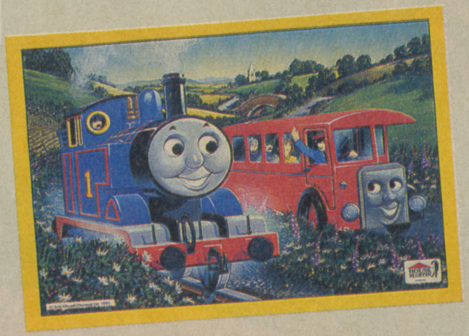
with.....

**THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS**

...In issue 121! On Sale 25th May 1992

## And in the following 3 issues..

## A Flag for you!



In issue 122! On Sale 8th June 1992.

There's a fantastic 2-part competition, too! In which 10 lucky entrants will each win a splendid Thomas Playhouse Backpack, Picture Blocks, Travel Bag, Duffle Bag, Vinyl Toys, Projector, Tap-a-peg, Wipe Away and Humming top!

In issues 122 & 123! On Sale 8th and 22nd June!

# JOIN THE DOTS!

Harold's propellors go round and round. So does something nearer the ground. Can you guess what it might be? Join the dots and you will see!

# COMPETITION!

## SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

**Don't miss this special opportunity to enter this exciting competition and have the chance of winning one of the following splendid prizes, from ERTL (UK).**

**1ST PRIZE:**
**12** Thomas the Tank Engine remote control engines!

**2ND PRIZE:**
**24** x 3-piece standard sets including Thomas, Annie and Clarabel!

**3RD PRIZE:**
**24** Thomas the Tank Engine standard die cast models!

**How to enter:**
Colour in the splendid picture on this page as brightly and carefully as you can. Fill in your details in the section below, then send this page to: ***Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.***

**PARENT/GUARDIAN**
**Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms**
**Surname**.....
**Address**.....
.....
.....**Postcode**.....

**Child's name**.....**Boy** **Girl**
**Surname**.....
**Address**.....
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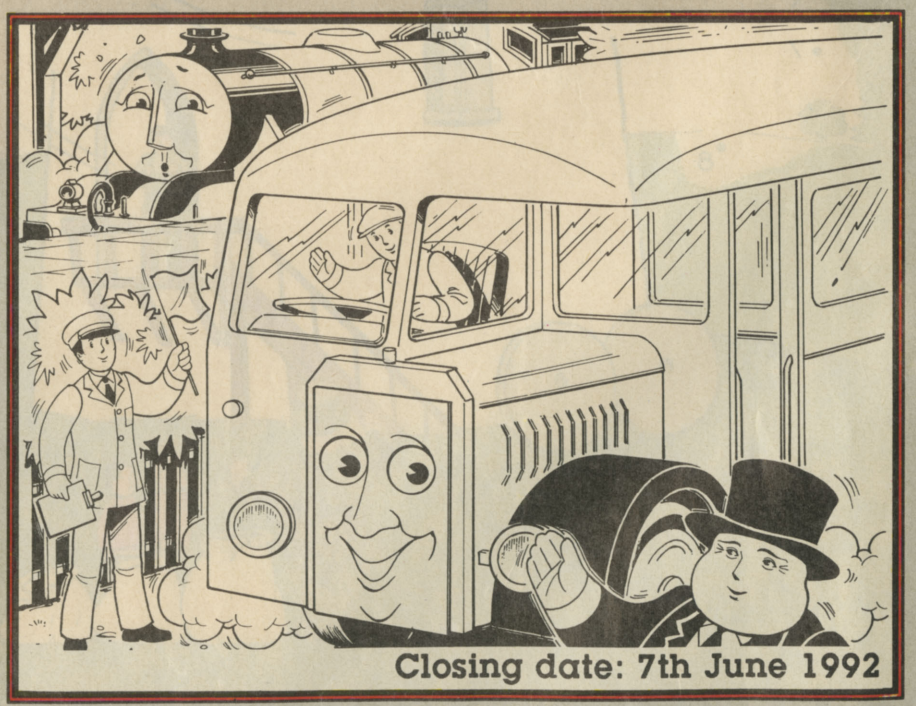
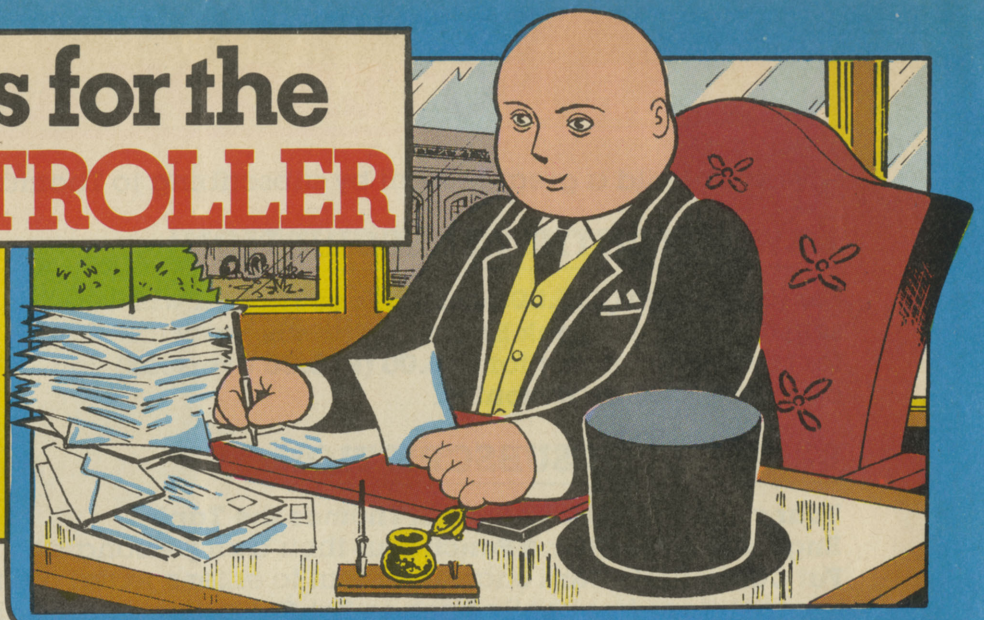
**Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these mailings.** ☐



**Closing date: 7th June 1992**

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

# Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



**Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!**

## STAR LETTER!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
"Thomas is a lovely sight,
To see along the line.
You never have to wait for him,
He's always there on time.
He's so bright and shiny,
That lovely colour blue,
I wish that I could meet him
And the Fat Controller too!

Love from **Steven Ward**, aged 2.

*Your verse is really splendid,*
*We wish it had never ended.*
*We can now send you a splendid prize,*
*To write again would be very wise!*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

## RAILWAY DREAMS!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
I often dream that I would like to be a fire stoker on Thomas and pull Annie and Clarabel with all my friends aboard. But sometimes, I would also like to be Thomas's driver too!

Love from **James Henderson**, aged 3.

*Well! Well! I do hope that you become a train driver when you grow up, and if you are very well organised and efficient, you may even be able to drive an engine as useful as Thomas or as grand as Gordon!*

## SCOTTISH ENGINES!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
Why do Donald and Douglas get homesick?

Love from **Thomas Warne**, aged 4.

*Donald and Douglas are twin Scottish engines who originally came from the Caledonian railway in Scotland. Although the twins enjoy working very hard on the Island of Sodor, they sometimes become quite sad when they think of their homeland!*

## BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out to.....

**Luke Richards, Lois Richards, Ashley Stuart, Adam Greetham (21433), Jonathan Cripps, Steve Condy, Anthony Fellows (18598), Matthew Bennett, Aaron Bunning, Liam Bunning, Richard Keenan (5469), Paul Collins (35830).**

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

**Yours,**

Sir Topham Hatt

**The Fat Controller.**

**Send your letters to:**

**The Fat Controller**
**The Island of Sodor**
**c/o Marvel Comics Ltd**
**13/15 Arundel Street**
**London WC2.**

# A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

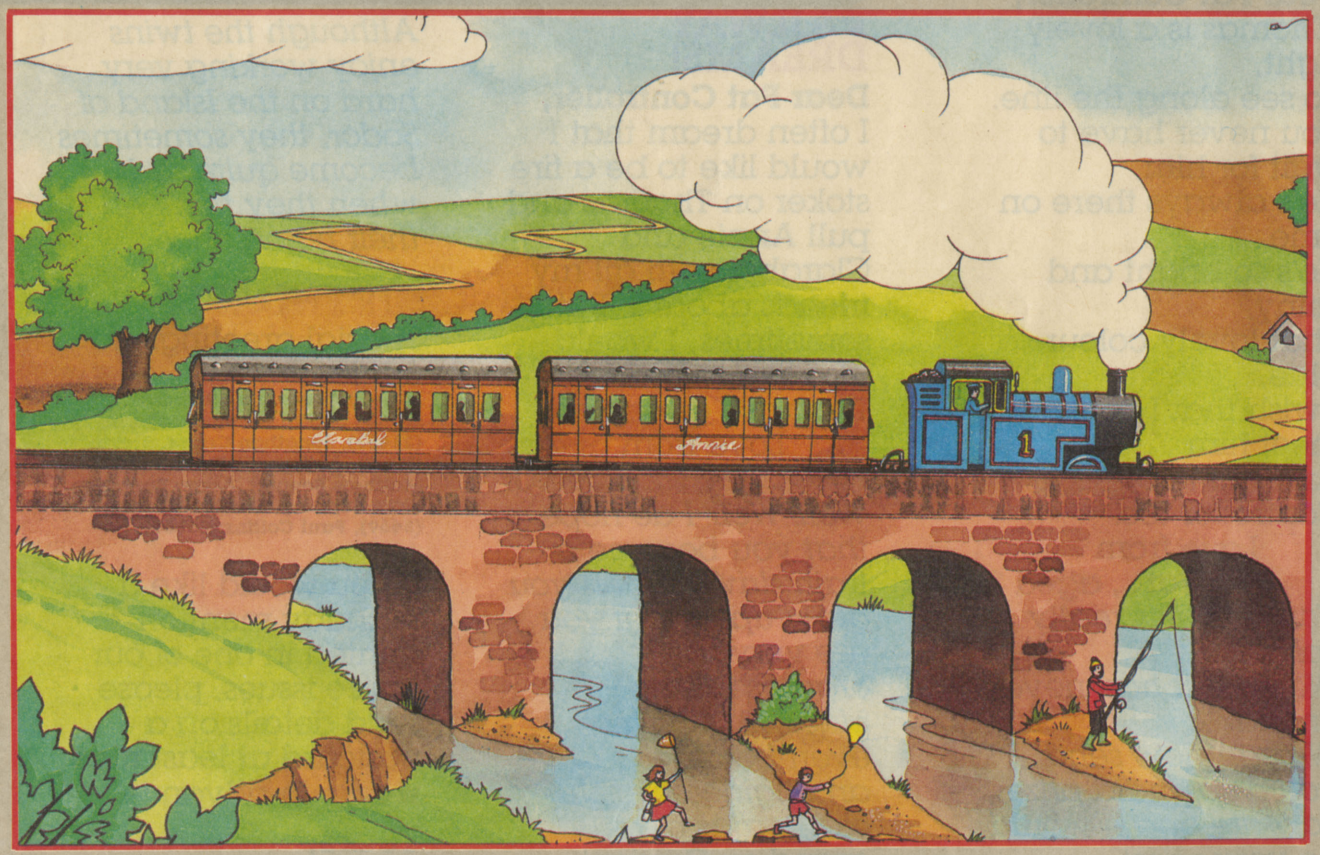
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

## NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

**For just £18.00** (**£35.00** overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

## EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

**Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil** plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.




Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas) 17H
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas) 18M

**Child's name** .....
**Address** .....
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**Date of birth** .....
**Postcode** .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
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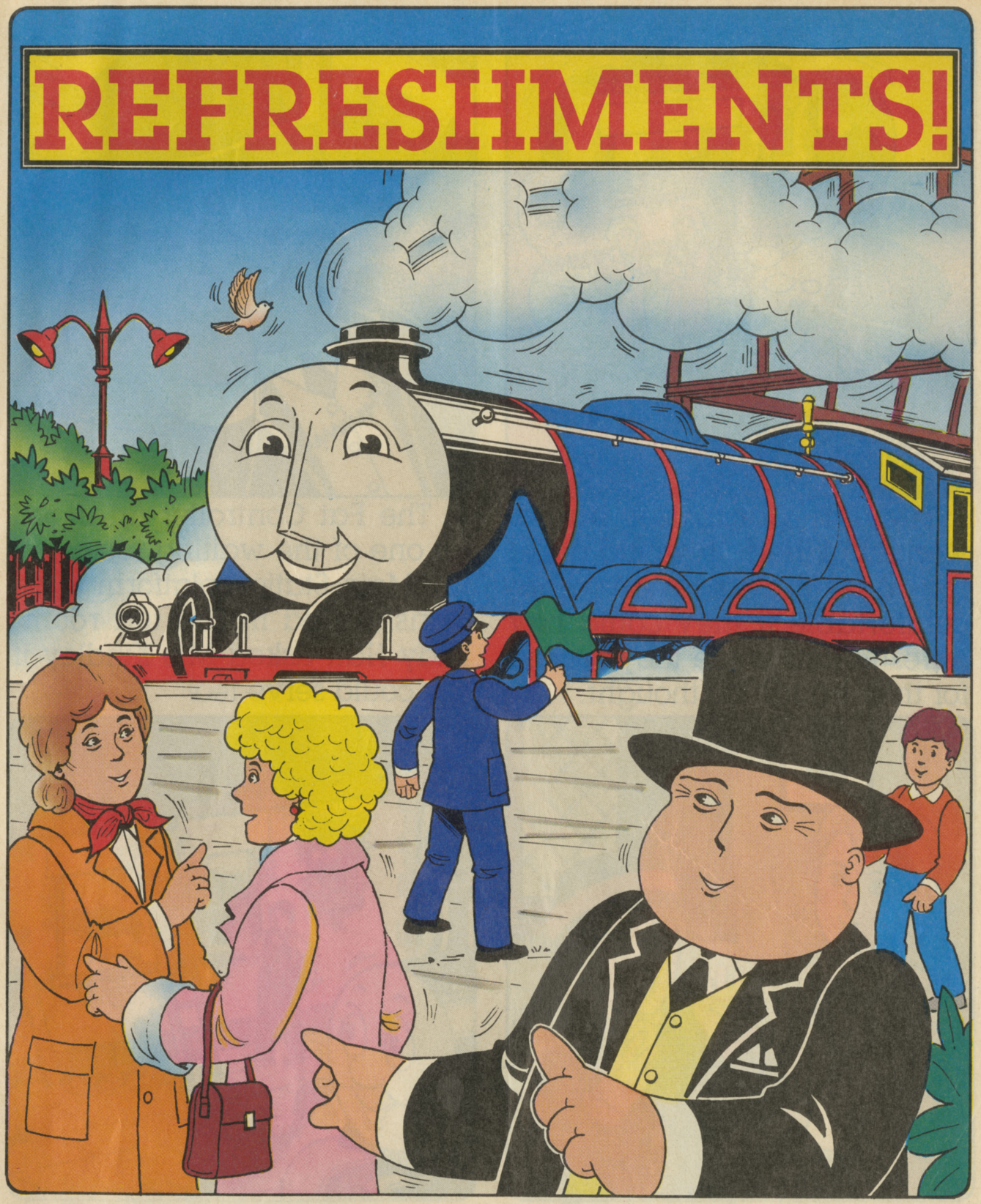
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

(Tick boxes where appropriate)

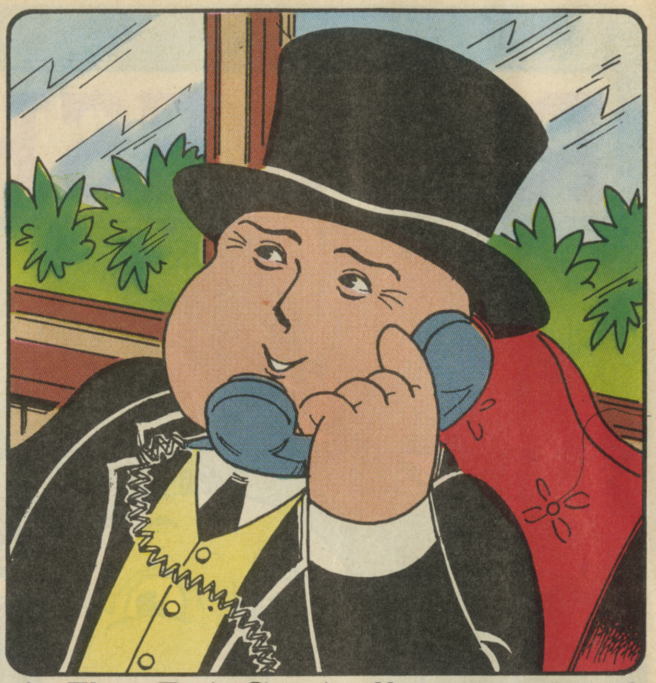
# REFRESHMENTS!



1. The Fat Controller enjoys running his railway efficiently but he is always trying to think of new ideas and ways, to improve his service for the passengers.

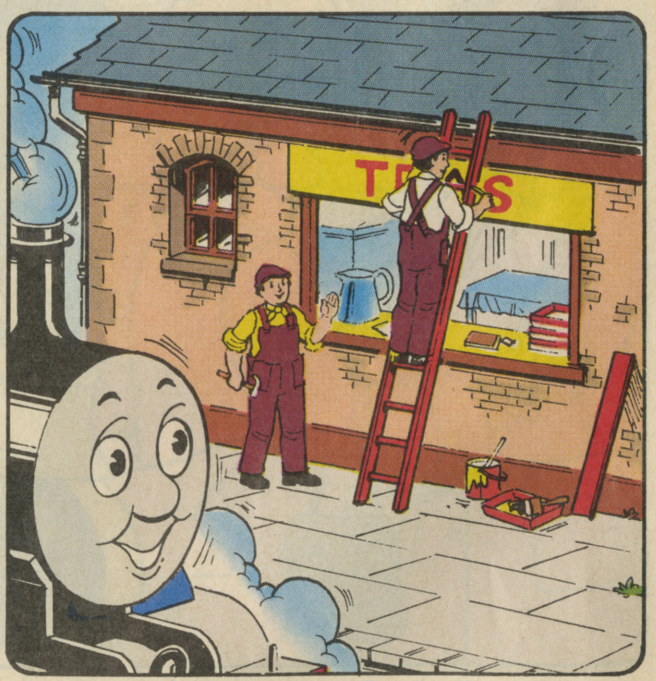
2. One day, as he watched some passengers waiting at the Main Station, he overheard two ladies talking. "I'm so thirsty," said one lady. "Wouldn't a cup of tea be nice?"

3.The Fat Controller had a wonderful idea. "It would make my passengers even more comfortable if they could buy refreshments while they waited for their trains!" he thought.



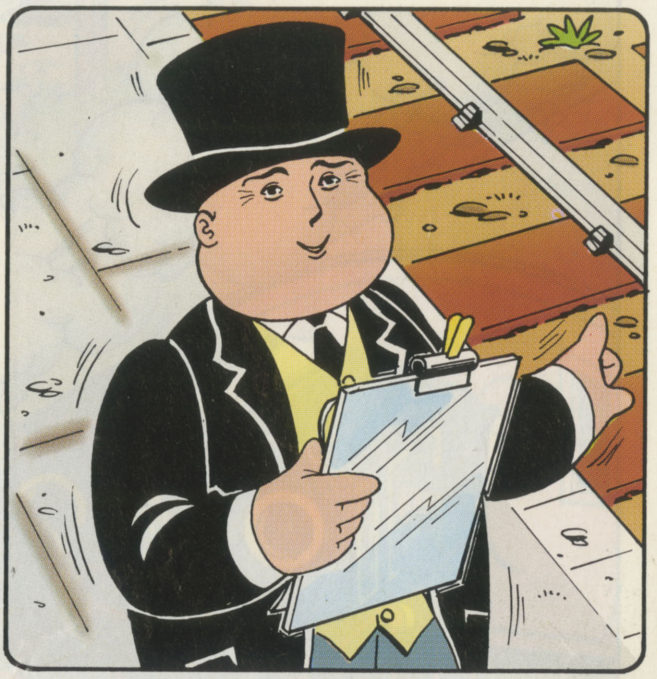
4. The Fat Controller arranged for one of the waiting rooms on the Main Station platform to be transformed into a tea room. Lady Hatt asked Mrs Kindley if she could serve tea!

5. Mrs Kindley was only too pleased to help. She looked forward to serving tea and cakes and talking to passengers and friends at the Main Station.

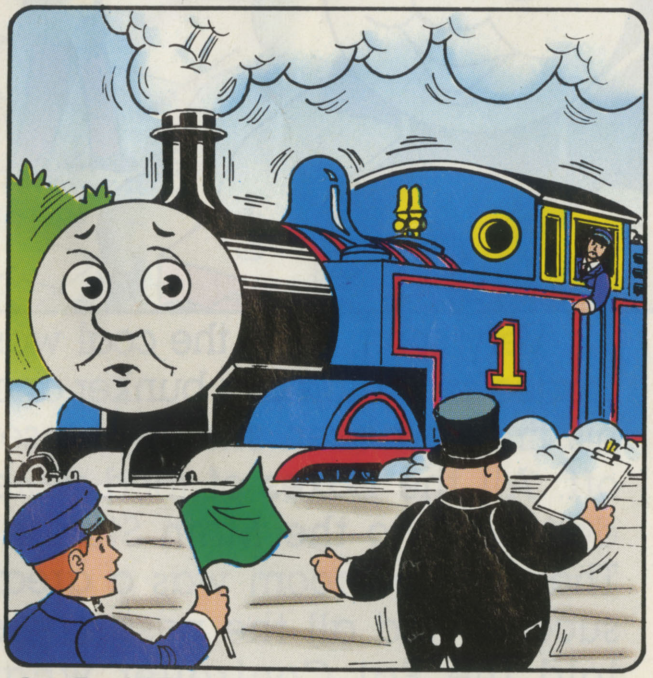


6. Once the tea room was ready to open, the Fat Controller arranged for Thomas to bring all the food and supplies to the Main Station. Big wooden tables were loaded into Thomas's trucks.

7. Thomas felt very useful as he watched the Fat Controller tick off his list. He was pleased to be able to help. The delivery men loaded boxes and trays of food into lots of trucks.



8. After a very long time, the final boxes were loaded ready to be delivered to the tea room. "It's time for you to set off now, Thomas!" called the Fat Controller.




9. But Thomas did not move. "Whatever is the matter?" asked the Fat Controller. Thomas's driver and fireman looked very concerned. "We have a problem, sir," called Thomas's driver.

10. "We have been so busy concentrating on the food supply for the tearoom, that we have forgotten about Thomas's fuel supply!" "Goodness me!" exclaimed the Fat Controller.

11. "It's no good preparing all this food for our passengers, if Thomas cannot deliver it," continued the Fat Controller. Immediately, he organised for the best coal to be loaded into Thomas's bunker. "Just as my passengers shall have the finest food available, so my engines must have the finest fuel, too!" he beamed. Thomas smiled too!

12. Very soon, once the coal was loaded into Thomas's bunker,and his fire had been started, he set off. All the boxes of food were delivered to the Main Station. The new tea room was a great success and all the passengers told the Fat Controller what pleasure it had been to receive a splendid welcome from Mrs Kindley, accompanied by a refreshing cup of tea!

**THE END**



**In our next issue: Bumps and buffers!**